





# Wabash Plain Dealer

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**WEDNESDAY,**  
JANUARY 6, 2021

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather **36 | 27** 



**Pulse**  
of Wabash

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Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

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## Honeywell hosts annual Clark Gallery 92 County Art Show

Honeywell Arts & Entertainment will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show in the Honeywell Center Clark Gallery from Thursday, Jan. 7 to Monday, Feb. 15. The exhibit will be available for public viewing from 11 a.m. to

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# Parkview Health administers over 7,000 vaccine doses in first round

ISDH reports 44th COVID-19 death in Wabash County

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Saturday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported the 44th COVID-19 death in Wabash County.

Wabash County's rating remains in the orange or second-highest category. And, nearly every surrounding county is now in red, the highest category.

After health care workers began receiving COVID-19 vaccinations at locations around the state earlier this month, CVS Health began vaccinations at long-term care facilities in the state last week.

At 12:09 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, Parkview Health made history by administering the first COVID-19 vaccine in the state of Indiana. Parkview Health public relations manager Tami Brigle said Parkview anticipated receiving a shipment of about 2,000 doses of the vaccine that week and 8,000 doses the following week. As of Thursday, Dec. 17, Brigle said they had administered

more than 650 vaccines to healthcare personnel from Monday through Wednesday of that week.

On Monday, Jan. 4, Parkview Health communications director Jessica Foor said they had administered 7,114 vaccinations as of Saturday, Jan. 2.

More than 20,000 Indiana healthcare workers statewide have already registered to get their first dose. More than 50

Indiana hospitals and clinics were expected to receive a total of 55,575 doses of vaccine by the end of that first week of vaccinations, and additional shipments are expected weekly. The vaccine requires two doses administered a minimum of 21 to 28 days apart.

"Supplies are holding up well, and we have

See **COVID-19**, page A10

# Callahan leaves post as WCS superintendent after 16 years



Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

After 16 years on the job, Wabash City Schools (WCS) superintendent Jason Callahan is leaving his post.

As he moves on to IDOE appointment, the school board begins search for a replacement

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

After 16 years on the job, Wabash City Schools (WCS) superintendent Jason Callahan is leaving his post.

On Tuesday, WCS board president Rod Kelsheimer said following their Monday, Dec. 21 meeting Callahan "made the board aware" of his resignation.

Kelsheimer said Callahan

would soon be appointed as assistant secretary of pathways and opportunities with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE).

In a joint statement, the WCS board members thanked Callahan for the "leadership and vision he has provided our district for the last 16 years."

"Wabash City Schools has built a reputation for being an innovative school district built upon relationships and

this is in large part (due) to the foresight Mr. Callahan brought during his time as superintendent. While we are saddened to see Mr. Callahan leave our district, we know he will continue to be an advocate for Wabash City Schools and the Wabash community. We wish him the very best with his new responsibilities," stated the board.

The board stated they would begin "an extensive

search" for their next superintendent and "welcome both internal and external interest in the opening."

"It is important that Wabash City Schools is able to build upon our recent successes and continues to be a leader in innovative public education," stated the board. Kelsheimer said they would be utilizing services provided by the Indiana

See **CALLAHAN**, page A3

# WPD: 'Overwhelming amount' of concealed carry permit requests

Nationally, the FBI completed a record number of background checks in December

By **ROB BURGESS**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Monday, Wabash Police Department (WPD) public information officer Matt Benson said they have seen an "overwhelming amount" of requests for concealed carry permits recently.

On Tuesday, Benson said the WPD usually receives

between 20 and 30 requests per month.

"We have done over 60 in a month," said Benson. "It really varies, but it is a substantial number."

This local increase follows a national trend.

On Monday, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) reported their National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) had completed 39,695,315 requests in 2020, the most for any year. That's up from the 28,369,750 background checks they completed in 2019. In December 2020

alone, 3,937,066 background checks were performed, the most for any single month.

"Gun permits have been pretty consistent for the past year. It really depends on what is going on in the world as to our numbers and the rumors that spread that citizens get a permit," said Benson. "By showing this process we hope it streamlines the process for the citizens of Wabash."

Benson said gun owners who wish to apply for a concealed carry permit

See **PERMITS**, page A3

# Huntington officers cleared in shooting death investigation

Special prosecutor: Shooting was 'justified'

By **ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI**  
Chronicle-Tribune Editor

The officers who shot and killed a man reportedly operating a stolen backhoe used to destroy property on Dec. 13 will not face criminal charges.

Special Prosecutor D.J. Sigler Jr. said the "multiple gunshot wounds" that resulted in the "tragic" death of 36-year-old Matthew T.

Melzoni, of Wabash, were justified, according to his investigation report released Tuesday evening.

"The law enforcement officers who responded to this event were confronted with an immediate and deadly scenario: a known violent felon with a history of erratic behavior and serious substance abuse history

See **SHOOTING**, page A3



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# COVID was 2020’s top religion story – but which story?

There was never any question whether the global coronavirus pandemic would be named the most important religion-news story of 2020. The question was which faith-driven COVID-19 story – out of a dozen or so – would top the Religion News Association’s Top 10 list.

According to journalists who cover religion, this was the year’s biggest story: “COVID-19 pandemic claims lives of many religious leaders and laity, upends death rituals, ravages congregational finances, spurs charitable responses, forces religious observances to cancel or go online and stirs legal fights over worship shutdowns.”

But there was a problem on my ballot. The RNA list included another coronavirus item focusing on religious liberty. In some cities and states, officials created pandemic regulations that claimed many institutions – from grocery stores to casinos – provided “essential services.” Meanwhile, other institutions – like churches and synagogues – were deemed “nonessential.”

The U.S. Supreme Court eventually ruled that religious institutions shouldn’t face tougher rules than secular groups and activities. It was wrong, for example, to ban masked priests from hearing confessions – outdoors, 10 feet away from masked penitents – while consumers were lined up at liquor stores.

These conflicts continued. In a symbolic pre-Christmas press conference, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam explained why he thought religious groups should be willing to move their activities online and stay there – for now.

“This year, we need to think about what is truly the most important thing,” Northam explained in the press conference. “Is it the worship or the building? For me, God is wherever you are. You don’t have to sit in the church pew

Terry Mattingly



problem with this “secularized, Protestant-ized” view of worship, he said, is that it doesn’t work for believers with ancient traditions that don’t work online, such as offering communicants consecrated bread and wine.

“A lot of us, for a long time, have been worried that the secular state has been trying to push religion out of the public square,” said Barron in a social-media video. “Sometimes you’ll hear this language: ‘Yeah, freedom of religion means freedom of worship, that you can kind of do your own thing behind the walls of your churches, just don’t come out in public.’

“Well, that’s bad enough. ... Now we’re invading the private space of our own worship. Here’s a secular governor instructing us on the nature of worship?”

For me, this First Amendment showdown was the most important religion-news story of 2020. Here’s the rest of the RNA Top 10.

2. Protests and riots follow the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others, with many religious leaders in the forefront. Many religious institutions rethink their complicated histories with race.

3. Joe Biden is the second Catholic to be elected president, with big assists from an energized religious left, secular voters and believers in African American churches.

4. Amy Coney Barrett, whose Catholic and charismatic faith history faced intense scrutiny, joins a conservative Supreme Court majority – replacing Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whose liberal Jewish heritage helped

shape her career.

5. Police, using tear gas, clear out protesters so that President Donald Trump can pose with a Bible at the historic St. John’s Episcopal Church near the White House. Many religious leaders express outrage.

6. Once again, white evangelicals overwhelmingly vote for Trump, despite dissent by some religious conservatives. Surprising numbers of Latino evangelicals and Catholics also back the president.

7. Many governments and religious institutions oppose human-rights abuses by China against Muslim Uighurs and others in the Xinjiang region, including the use of internment camps.

8. The Vatican releases a long-delayed report on ex-cardinal Theodore McCarrick, showing that bishops, cardinals and popes failed to act on sexual-misconduct reports.

9. Pandemic limits on worship gatherings spur opposition from some Orthodox Jewish groups, Catholic bishops and evangelical leaders. The Supreme Court backs challenges by Catholic and Jewish groups to rules in New York City and elsewhere.

10. Liberty University president Jerry Falwell Jr. resigns amid a firestorm over risqué social media posts and an alleged sex scandal. Claims of sexual misconduct are made against late evangelical apologist Ravi Zacharias and Hillsong pastor Carl Lentz.

As religion newsmakers of the year, RNA poll voters selected George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, whose killings by police officers ignited protests against racial injustice and made them iconic images of the Black Lives Matter movement. President-elect Biden was the runner-up.

*Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.*

## Here’s to new life in the new year

The current president of Planned Parenthood is unafraid to use the word “abortion.” In a Christmas-season interview with The Washington Post, Alexis McGill Johnson scolded those who would downplay the importance of abortion in her organization’s work. She says it is “stigmatizing” to do so.

For those who oppose abortion, this is a cause for gratitude. For decades, abortion has been subject to euphemisms from its advocates. “Choice,” “freedom,” “health,” are all used to avoid saying the actual word “abortion.” Which makes sense: Polls consistently suggest Americans don’t like abortion. And why should we? We know in our hearts that severing a child from its mother isn’t natural, isn’t ideal, isn’t good. But life is difficult. People want to know that women in need have options.

As it happens, Johnson’s short-tenured predecessor tried to minimize the importance of abortion to Planned Parenthood. But honesty is best. It’s the only way to make progress. “I think abortion is health care,” Johnson says.

At the same time the interview with Johnson was published, activists were celebrating abortion in the streets of Buenos Aires, as abortion became legal in Argentina. A Reuters story quoted someone from Human Rights Watch encouraging the prospect of an abortion-legalization domino effect throughout South America.

It’s not in fashion for those innocent, most vulnerable

Kathryn Lopez



humans in the womb to have rights. Headlines about the Argentinian senate vote had abortion proponents pitted against the Catholic Church – which included the former cardinal archbishop of Buenos Aires, the current Pope Francis. It’s not unusual for people who support abortion to embrace the pope’s views on other issues, like climate change. But he talks about the environment in the context of a broader plight – that we are a throwaway society. Shouting about abortion being health care and freedom helps this to be conveniently ignored. But taking a look at how there’s a consistency to caring for both the human person and the rest of creation would get us somewhere better.

Jan. 22 is the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in all three trimesters here in the United States. We’ve seen what kind of “domino effect” that decision has had on our society and body politic. What has law been teaching people for almost a half-century now? That the vulnerable don’t have rights. That we can end the lives of those who don’t fit into our plans.

There’s a sobering documentary now streaming called “Divided Hearts of America,” featuring former NFL player Benjamin Watson, who engages numerous people in conversation about






abortion. It’s clearly coming from a pro-life perspective – Watkins himself is a father of seven and is active in pro-life and family evangelical advocacy circles, but he does talk to both sides. Everyone should watch it. Perhaps it would help us get beyond the knee-jerk partisan reactions that have been miring down the country for years.

Earlier this year, Planned Parenthood of Greater New York took founder Margaret Sanger’s name off its building due to her support of eugenics. While the truth about the origins of Planned Parenthood should have been confronted long ago, taking her name off the building only whitewashes history.

Let’s do better for life in this new year – by having honest, open, humane debates, finding meeting ground where we can. And absolutely coming together for the best for children who are alive and do not have homes, and protecting faith-based resources even as we may disagree about some fundamentals of family life. And we should celebrate courageous birth mothers who aren’t ready to raise a child, but are willing to do the hard work of bringing one into the world. With our help, the world will be ready to care for that child, and all the others as well.





*Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.*

### 5-Day Weather Summary

 <b>Wednesday</b> Mostly Cloudy 37 / 28	 <b>Thursday</b> Cloudy Areas of Fog 36 / 27	 <b>Friday</b> Mostly Cloudy 33 / 24	 <b>Saturday</b> Mostly Cloudy 34 / 23	 <b>Sunday</b> Mostly Cloudy 35 / 24
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#### Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 5:34 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 8:03 a.m.

 Last 1/6	 New 1/13	 First 1/20	 Full 1/28
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#### Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 38°, humidity of 70%. Northeast wind 2 to 7 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with areas of fog, overnight low of 28°. Northeast wind 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 20°.

# Fauci: U.S. could soon give 1 million vaccinations a day

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
Associated Press

The U.S. could soon be giving at least a million COVID-19 vaccinations a day despite the sluggish start, Dr. Anthony Fauci said Tuesday, even as he warned of a dangerous next few weeks as the coronavirus surges.

The slow pace is frustrating health officials and a desperate public alike, with only about a third of the first supplies shipped to states used as of Tuesday morning, just over three weeks into the vaccination campaign.

“Any time you start a big program, there’s always glitches. I think the glitches have been worked out,” the nation’s top infectious disease expert told The Associated Press.

Vaccinations have already begun speeding up, reaching roughly half a million injections a day, he pointed out.

Now, with the holidays over, “once you get rolling and get some momentum, I think we can achieve 1 million a day or even more,” Fauci said. He called President-elect Joe Biden’s goal of 100 million vaccinations in his first 100 days “a very realistic, important, achiev-

## Prosecutor: Wisconsin pharmacist thought vaccine was unsafe

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin pharmacist convinced the world was “crashing down” told police he tried to ruin hundreds of doses of coronavirus vaccine because he believed the shots would mutate people’s DNA, according to court documents released Monday.

Police in Grafton, about 20 miles north of Milwaukee, arrested Advocate Aurora Health pharmacist Steven Brandenburg last week following an investigation into the 57 spoiled vials of the Moderna vaccine, which officials say contained enough doses to inoculate more than 500 people. Charges are pending.

“He’d formed this belief they were unsafe,” Ozaukee County District Attorney Adam Gerol said during a virtual hearing. He added that Brandenburg was upset because he and his wife are divorcing, and an Aurora employee said Brandenburg had taken a gun to work twice.

A detective wrote in a probable cause statement that Brandenburg, 46, is an admitted conspiracy theorist and that he told investigators he intentionally tried to ruin the vaccine because it could hurt people by changing their DNA.

able goal.”

It’s an optimistic prediction considering the logistical hurdles facing states and counties as they struggle to administer rationed vaccine supplies amid rising COVID-19 hospitalizations. Fauci pointed to California’s swamped hospitals and exhausted workers even before holiday travel and family gatherings added fuel to the outbreak.

Fauci estimated that between 70 percent and 85 percent of the U.S. population will need to be vaccinated to achieve “herd immunity,” meaning enough people are protected that it’s difficult for the virus to continue spreading. That translates to as many as 280 million people.

He said he is hoping to achieve that by the start of next fall.

# Trump administration scales back wild bird protections

By MATTHEW BROWN  
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Trump administration on Tuesday finalized changes that weaken the government’s enforcement powers under a century-old law protecting most American wild bird species, brushing aside warnings that billions of birds could die as a result.

Federal wildlife officials have acknowledged the move could result in more deaths of birds such as those that land in oil pits or collide with power lines or other structures.

A U.S. District Court judge in August had blocked the administration’s prior attempt to change how the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is enforced.

But urged on by industry groups, the Trump administration has remained adamant that the act has been wielded inappropriately for decades, to penalize companies and other entities that kill birds accidentally.

More than 1,000 species are covered under the migratory bird law, and the move to lessen enforcement standards have drawn a sharp backlash from organizations that advocate on behalf of an estimated 46 million U.S. birdwatchers.

Conservationists said Tuesday they would push President-elect Joe Biden to reverse the Interior Department rule, which blocks officials from bringing criminal charges unless birds are specifically targeted for death or injury.

Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe and independent scientists have said the change could cause a huge spike in bird deaths – potentially billions of birds in coming decades – at a time when species across North America already are in steep decline.


A Trump administration analysis of the rule change did not put a number on how many more birds could die. But it said some vulnerable

species could decline to the point where they would require protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Industry sources and other human activities – from oil pits and wind turbines, to vehicle strikes and glass building collisions – now kill an estimated 460 million to 1.4 billion birds annually, out of an overall 7.2 billion birds in North America, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and recent studies. Researchers say cats are the biggest single source of deaths, killing more than 2 billion birds a year.

Many companies have sought to reduce bird deaths in recent decades by working in cooperation with wildlife officials, but the incentive to participate in such efforts drops absent the threat of criminal liability.

The 1918 migratory bird law came after many U.S. bird populations had been decimated by hunting and poaching – much of it for feathers for women’s hats.



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# Obituaries

## Patricia A. Burris Cripe

June 8, 1936 – Dec. 31, 2020

Patricia A. Burris Cripe, 84, of Laketon, Indiana, passed while her daughter read her scriptures at 4:33 pm, Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 at her residence.

Patricia was born on June 8, 1936 in Tipton, Indiana to the late Paul A. and Annetta (Cunningham) Burris. She married on Aug. 30, 1953 in Liberty Mills, Indiana to Ernest D. Cripe, he survives.

She had worked for the Manchester Veterinary Clinic (Terrill's) as an assistant for many years. She then was the Office Manager for Cripe Mobile Home Transport of Laketon for over 18 years.

Patricia was a member of the Liberty Mills Church of the Brethren. She loved playing euchre and was lovingly called the "Euchre Queen" and was an excellent cook. She took pride in being a homemaker. She always enjoyed her time with her family, especially with her grandchildren.

Patricia is survived by her husband Ernie Cripe, Laketon, Ind., sons Randall and wife Debra Cripe, North

Manchester, Ind. and Ricky Scott and wife Nadine Cripe, Laketon, Ind.; a daughters Beth Anne and husband Tim Woodward, North Manchester, Ind. and Dawn Michele and husband Danny Schafer, Laketon, Ind.; 12 Grandchildren, 19 Great Grandchildren, 2 Great Great Grandchildren, and a sister Cindy Pratt, Pendleton, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister Lita Altherr, and a brother Richard "Dick" Burris.

In your own way, please remember and celebrate how Patricia Cripe's life impacted yours.

The arrangements for Mrs. Cripe have been entrusted to Hartzler Funeral Home 305 West Rochester Street Akron, Indiana.

Donations can be made in her memory to the Animal Shelter of Wabash County 810 Manchester Ave, Wabash, IN 46992 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105.

Share a Memory or send an Online Condolence at: [www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com](http://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com)

## Carl Raymond Cloud

Aug. 6, 1935 – Dec. 31, 2020

Carl Raymond Cloud, 85, of Claypool, Indiana, formerly of Wabash, died at 2:40 pm, on Thursday, December 31, 2020 at his home on Beaver Dam Lake. He was born on Tuesday, August 6, 1935 in Wabash, Indiana, to Edward and Margaret (Brauneller) Whistler.

Carl was a graduate of LaFontaine High School and was a US Army veteran. He married Lois J. Bennett in LaFontaine, Indiana on August 8, 1961; she died July 23, 2020. Carl was a Wabash City Fireman, retiring after 35 years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and living on Beaver Dam Lake.

He is survived by his son,

William "Bill" (Amie) Cloud of Claypool, four grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his parents, brother, Eugene Cloud, and step brother, Eugene Taylor.

Funeral services will be 10:30 am, Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with David Phillips officiating. Entombment will be in Gardens of Memory Cemetery, Marion. Friends may call one hour prior to the service Wednesday, at the funeral home.

The memorial guest book for Carl may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

## John Arthur Siferd

Services for John Arthur Siferd, 96, of Wabash, were 10:30 am, Monday, January 4, 2021 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Rev. Todd Render officiated and Susan Vanlandingham was the musician. Eulogy by grandchildren, Bill Kreider and Christiane Soultz. Scriptures were read by great-grand-

children Andrew and Sophia Kreider. Memories shared by family and friends. Pallbearers were Jason Soultz, Bill Kreider, Tom Meredith, Chris Meredith, Anthony Meredith, and Pat Meredith. Burial was in Matlock Cemetery, Wabash. Military Honors by the Wabash VFW Post 286 and the U.S. Army Honors Team.

## Herman 'Hoss' Staton

Services for Herman "Hoss" Staton, 78, of Wabash, were 2:00 pm, Thursday, December 31, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Roann. Pastor Jacob Good officiated, Jerad Coleman, Kale Coleman, and Nick Poe were the

musicians. Readings by the daughter Pama Poe. Pallbearers were Nate Morton, Michael Wise, Nick Poe, Michael Poe, Trimalle Mayes, and Jerad Coleman. Burial was in Roann Community Cemetery, Roann.

## Paul N. Watson

Oct. 3, 1979 – Jan. 3, 2021

Paul N. Watson, 41, passed away January 3, 2021.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Ferguson & Glancy Funeral Home 201 N Main Street Van Buren on Friday, January 8, 2021 from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

A Catholic Mass will be held at the Holy Family Catholic Church 325 E. North A.

St. Gas City at 2:00 PM on Thursday, January 7, 2021 with Father Kevin Hurley officiating.

We ask that you please practice social distancing while paying your respects. Face masks are recommended.

Arrangements are being handled by Ferguson & Glancy Funeral Home in Van Buren.

## Rodney Lee Banks

Funeral services for Rodney Lee Banks, 52, of Wabash are 10:30 am, Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen

Funeral Service, Wabash. Burial in Memorial Lawns Cemetery. Visitation 9:30-10:30 am.

# Some taxpayers find relief money sent to wrong account

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL  
AP Personal Finance Writer

A number of taxpayers who use tax preparation services, such as H&R Block and TurboTax, say their second relief payments were sent to the incorrect bank account, forcing them to wait longer for their money.

The IRS and the Treasury Department began issuing the Economic Impact Payments last week. The payment is \$600 for each eligible adult and dependent for people earning up to \$75,000, or \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly. Those earning more than that are eligible for a reduced payment.

The IRS said that direct deposit payments would take several days to post to individual accounts but funds were largely available on Monday. Some pay-

ments are also being sent via paper check or debit cards during the month of January.

Taxpayers can use the Get My Payment tool on the IRS website to find out about the status of their payment.

However, many people said that they checked the IRS site and found their payments were sent to an account they did not recognize.

Samantha Smith of Dallas said she received her \$1,200 relief payment in the spring via direct deposit without any issues. But her payment for this round of economic relief went to an account she did not recognize.

She contacted TurboTax, which prepared her most recent tax filing, and was told if she paid her tax preparation fees with her refund due, rather than paying for it upfront, then the

second payment may have been sent to a TurboTax bank. Several other taxpayers who paid their fees the same way also reported delays.

Smith, who was laid off in October, had planned to use the money to pay her rent and is frustrated as her hands tied until the money comes in.

"I would love that money," she said. "It's imperative."

There is no exact measure at this time of how many taxpayers were impacted. The IRS did not have a comment early Tuesday on the scope or cause of the problem.

TurboTax said that the IRS is the "sole party with the ability to determine eligibility and distribute stimulus payments" and that by law, the financial institution must return the payment to the IRS if an account is no longer active.

"We know how important these funds are for so many Americans and that everyone is anxious to get their money," said company spokeswoman Ashley McMahon. "We are partnering with the IRS to help taxpayers receive their payments as quickly as possible."

H&R Block said that it "understands stimulus checks are vitally important for millions of Americans" and said if the IRS Get My Payment website displays an account number a customer doesn't recognize, then its customer service agents are ready to help by phone or online.

The IRS has said that there is no action required by eligible individuals to receive this second payment. The payments are automatic, and people should not contact their financial institutions or the IRS with payment timing questions.

## CALLAHAN

From page A1

School Boards Association (ISBA) to assist the WCS board in their search for a new superintendent.

"The board also plans to reach out to various community stakeholders for their input on what we should look for in the next superintendent," said Kelsheimer.

Kelsheimer said they estimated this to be a four- to six-month process. He said they would like to have the new superintendent begin no later than July 1.

"The board will be compiling a list of attributes we will want in our next superintendent. Those will certainly include excellent communication skills, proven leadership ability and a vision that will build upon our strengths and continue

to move our district forward," said Kelsheimer.

Kelsheimer said during the transition period, Callahan's responsibilities would be divided between WCS business manager Matt Stone and director of curriculum and instruction Emily Tracy.

Kelsheimer said Stone would be responsible for operations and buildings, while Tracy will handle curriculum and classroom responsibilities.

"They will both work closely with the board and our building administrators. The board would like to thank Mr. Stone and Ms. Tracy for their willingness to take on additional responsibilities and assisting in making this transition as smooth as possible," said Kelsheimer.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

## SHOOTING

From page A1

operating a massive vehicle designed for demolition and excavation," Sigler wrote in his report. "Further, the operation of the backhoe was occurring in a densely populated residential area."

Indiana State Police initially reported that "an exchange of gunfire took place, resulting in the injury of one Huntington police officer, and the death of the adult male suspect." ISP released a correction Dec. 18 stating Melzoni never fired at officers.

Investigators found no evidence that Melzoni was armed during the incident, according to Sigler's conclusion.

Sigler said independent civilian eyewitness accounts reportedly corroborated evidence that the officers followed use of deadly force policies and "repeatedly attempted to use non-lethal means to de-escalate" the situation prior to using force.

"Witnesses described officers loudly engaging the suspect verbally, repeatedly

identifying themselves as law enforcement officers, flashing lights at him and pleading with the suspect to stop the vehicle," Sigler wrote. "Additionally, witnesses corroborate police reports that they first made efforts to shoot the tires of the vehicle in order to get it to stop."

Police say the suspect approached officers in a backhoe before "crashing" through gates around Horace Mann Middle School. Sigler stated "the backhoe charged at them with speed, causing them to fear for their lives and safety."

At least one officer reported that his firearm was "completely 'inadequate' against the steel construction of the backhoe," according to Sigler's investigation.

Sigler said "the death of the suspect, though regrettable, was the direct result of the suspect's chosen, criminal course of conduct."

The report says a woman with a valid protective order against Melzoni called central dispatch around 3 a.m. stating she was the victim of active felony cases and that Melzoni was "causing is-

sues" while operating heavy machinery.

Melzoni was out on bond for charges alleging intimidation with a deadly weapon, domestic battery with a deadly weapon and strangulation, according to Sigler.

"Multiple officers identified the suspect from prior criminal dealings and all knew Melzoni had a significant drug and violent history," Sigler wrote in his report.

Court records described in Sigler's investigation and later confirmed by the Herald-Press show Melzoni was convicted for aiding in dealing methamphetamine.

A relative of Melzoni was interviewed by police following the incident. The relative reportedly told investigators that Melzoni called him around 10 p.m. Dec. 12 "making paranoid claims about being chased by unknown persons" and that Melzoni had "jumped in the river to escape from those chasing him."

Sigler said Melzoni's paranoia was consistent with prior interactions with law enforcement.

"There is no evidence to support that Melzoni was

being chased by anyone," Sigler wrote. "After picking Melzoni up, the (relative) indicated that Melzoni was talking 'nonsense.' Melzoni further revealed that he had used about \$25 worth of dope earlier in the evening."

Police say "dope" meant methamphetamine, according to Sigler's report.

To conclude his report, Sigler wrote, "The shooting of Matthew Melzoni – while tragic – was justified by the imminent and deadly threat he posed to the citizens of Huntington County and the police officers sworn to keep the peace."

Huntington County Prosecutor Amy Richison recused herself from the investigation, leading to an independent investigation by Wells County prosecutors.

The officers who shot Melzoni were not identified despite media requests.

Sigler said subsequent requests for information would be released at a later date.

This story will be updated as more information is made available.

*Andrew Maciejewski, Chronicle-Tribune editor, may be reached by email at [amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com](mailto:amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com).*

## PERMITS

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must visit and click on the firearms link on that page to fill out the application.

Benson said applicants would then have to set up an appointment with WPD to have their fingerprints taken electronically.

Benson said once the applicant had submitted their on-

line application and received a call, they should call 260-563-1112, option 2 to set up an appointment with WPD.

Benson said there was no charge for a five-year concealed carry permit, but applicants must still make an appointment. A lifetime permit with an existing valid permit would carry a \$60 state fee and a \$40 local fee. A lifetime permit without an existing permit would carry a

\$75 state fee and a \$50 local fee.

Benson said state fees are paid online at the time of filling out the application and local fees are either exact cash or money order.

Benson said the applicant should not mail in their fingerprint receipt or local payment.

Benson said once an application begins, gun owners have 90 days to complete the

process. From there, it's out of the WPD's hands.

"Once everything is completed, it is up to the Indiana State Police (ISP) Firearms Section," said Benson.

Benson said it may take up to 60 days for the ISP to complete the application.

For more information, call 317-233-5054.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplainealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplainealer.com).*

## PULSE

From page A1

2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and will be hosted virtually via HoneywellArts.org and the Honeywell Center's Facebook and Instagram pages. For more information, visit <http://honeywellarts.org/exhibits>.

### Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR to meet

The Wabash County Frances Slocum Chapter of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave. The program will be given

by Junior Membership Committee vice-chair Kathryn Stephens. Amiss said prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) or call Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Barbara Amiss at 260-982-4376.

### Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution every other Wednesday

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 13 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org), [classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](http://classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

### Shine a light for Babe of Wabash County

A donation of \$25 will place a candle in memory of a loved one in a window of the Babe of Wabash County house at 88 W. Hill St. and "support (the) mission of creating positive and healthy family cultures by building community connections, providing

educational materials, and offering resources for families in Wabash County." Donations to the Babe of Wabash County fund can be made online at [cfwabash.org](http://cfwabash.org) or by check, with Babe of Wabash County in the memo line, sent to the Community Foundation, 105 W. 2nd St., Suite 100, North Manchester, IN 46962. To participate in the fundraiser, visit <https://www.babeofwabashcounty.org/light-up-babe>.

### DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning di-

vorice and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

*Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com) no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*





Photo by Alina Reed / Plain Dealer

The Northfield girls team celebrates after the game.

## Norse girls clinch championship

Wabash will be hosting Maconaquah High School at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9

By **ALINA REED**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

Northfield and Wabash went head to head for the county championship title on Wednesday, Dec. 30.

Northfield senior Kearston Stout scored the first point for the night and the Norse. Wabash held their own and kept their score twice as much as Northfield's for the first quarter. At the end of the first quarter, the scoreboard read 7-14, Wabash's head.

With the Norse in possession for

the second quarter, Northfield's seniors Emma Hoover and Kenzie Baer were able to score two points each. This lead to tightening the score to 12-17, still Wabash's lead. Wabash was able to stay strong through the second quarter and left the score at halftime at 20-24.

The third quarter became more intense as time was decreasing and the score was starting to become tighter. Northfield's senior Kyra Kennedy, Stout and senior Addi Baker were capable of scoring points for the Norse. As for Wabash, senior Alivia Short and

Mariah Wyatt continued to ensure the Apaches stayed on top. The scoreboard read 29-36 at the end of the third quarter.

Going into the fourth quarter, the Norse finally were able to surpass the Apaches. Northfield junior Addy Rosen scored a two-pointer leaving the score 42-41. Wabash felt the pressure and a timeout was called with 3:27 left in the game. Fouls were called on both teams resulting in the tied score to fluctuate. Short was able to tie the score at 50 with successfully shooting two foul shots. With 2.6 seconds left in the quarter, Baker was up to shoot two foul shots. She was successful and was able to bring the final score to 52-20.

"Winning county means a lot to

me," said Baker. "Especially because I won all four years of my high school career. We came out on top of two very close games to win, which means a lot because it was hard-fought."

"I loved being able to push and coming together as a team to win county," said Kennedy. "I hope that we can win conference, progress to sectionals and then make our way to state."

The Norse traveled to face Bluffton High School at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5.

The Apaches will be hosting Maconaquah High School at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9.

*Alina Reed, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at [sports@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:sports@wabashplainedealer.com).*

## 30 Manchester student-athletes named to fall Academic All-HCAC Team

The award is named after Tom Bohlsen, HCAC's first commissioner

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference has announced the fall honorees for the Tom Bohlsen Academic All-HCAC Team. Academic All-Conference selections have at least a cumulative 3.5 GPA and must be a varsity student-athlete.

The cumulative GPA is the student-athletes' GPA at the end of the semester preceding the end of the traditional sports season. The student-athlete must have completed the equivalent of a full academic year and must be a full-time enrolled student at the institution to be eligible for the Academic All-Conference award.

The award is named after Tom Bohlsen, who served as the HCAC's first commissioner from 1998 to 2008.

See **HCAC**, page A5

## Men's March Madness will be played entirely in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA is giving Indiana an exclusive ticket to showcase March Madness and the basketball-crazed state can't wait to take center stage this spring.

The NCAA announced Monday that its showcase event — the Division I men's basketball tournament, all 67 games of it — will be played entirely in or near Indianapolis. The hope is to limit the possibility that the coronavirus pandemic cancels the wildly popular and lucrative tournament for a second consecutive season.

"There are a number of world-class facilities in a close location and that was critical because you have to run a large number of games simultaneously that you can manage and control," NCAA President Mark Emmert said. "There were a number of cities that were very interested in hosting this event, but the immediate opportunity to do this in Indianapolis was pretty self-evident for several reasons. For one, we were already going to be there."

Indy was already scheduled to host the Final Four and it didn't take long for the city to emerge as the favorite.

The original plan was for the 67 games to be played at 13 sites across the country, starting with the First Four in Dayton, Ohio. Regional sites were set for Minneapolis, Denver, New York City and Memphis, Tennessee.

Instead, the buzzer beaters and jaw-dropping performances will all take place in a state known perhaps more than any other for its love of basketball.

"I really don't care if they play the tournament on Saturn or in Indianapolis," Louisville coach Chris Mack said. "Hopefully, we're a part of it and we do our part to get there. And wherever they put it, they put it."

Logistically, Indy made sense, too.

Dozens of restaurants of hotels are within walking distance of Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts, and Bankers Life Fieldhouse, home of the NBA's Indiana Pacers and WNBA's Indiana Fever. Many of those businesses and venues are connected by skywalks that allow players, coaches or fans to stay indoors.

Hinkle Fieldhouse, the historic home of the Butler Bulldogs, and the Indiana Farmers Coliseum, where the IUPUI Jaguars play, are just short drives from the downtown area. Mackey Arena at Purdue and Assembly Hall at Indiana also are about an hour's drive from downtown. All of those venues are slated to host games.

Playing in a state where the sport is revered and basketball stars are considered royalty doesn't hurt, either. Oscar Robertson, Larry Bird, Rick Mount, Damon Bailey and the late John Wooden were all stars here at one level or another. Bob Knight, Gene Keady and the late Tony Hinkle, originator of the orange

See **NCAA**, page A5



Photo by Alina Reed / Plain Dealer

The Manchester boys team celebrates after the game.

## Manchester boys take the county title

The Squires will be traveling to North Miami at 7:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8

By **ALINA REED**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

Wrapping up the Wabash County Basketball Tourney was Wabash and Manchester boys.

Manchester started off the game with possession. Starters for Wabash included senior Bryant Boggs, senior Jasper Walter, senior Joseph Leland, sophomore Dave Ford and senior Keegan O'Neill. Starting for Manchester

was senior Weston Hamby, senior Carter Bedke, junior Cade Jones, senior Max Carter and senior Brayden Jones.

Wabash started in the lead in the beginning of the first quarter. Manchester kept their determination up and with 28.2 seconds left in the quarter Carter brought the score to 16-12, Manchester's lead.

Manchester continued to hold their ground through the second quarter. Scoring for Manchester throughout the second quarter included Hamby, Carter and Cade Jones. Wabash freshman Trevor Daughtry and freshman Izaak Wright assisted in scoring more points through the second quarter.

Carter ended the second quarter with a foul shot making the score 30-21, still Manchester's lead.

The Squires started with the ball for the third quarter. Ford and Leland brought the heat within the third quarter and continued adding to Wabash's score for the night. As the clock came to zero, Manchester was able to gain one last basket as the buzzer went off. This left the score at 42-35.

Manchester refused to let Wabash surpass them in points. The Squires stayed ahead and was able to take the win as county champions. The final score was 52-43.

"A challenge for me tonight was coming off of an ankle injury,"

said Carter. "Winning has been a goal of mine since freshman year and I'm happy we were able to do so as a team."

"We are excited for this win, it's nice to get the ball rolling", said Hamby. "I'm hopeful that we can win conference, go on a win streak and just improve with every game."

Wabash hosted Maconaquah High School at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5.

Manchester will be traveling to North Miami at 7:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8.

*Alina Reed, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at [sports@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:sports@wabashplainedealer.com).*



SCOREBOARD

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL						
Indiana High School Basketball Poll						
CLASS 4A						
	W-L	Pts	Prv			
1. Lawrence North (7)	8-0	210	1			
2. Carmel (1)	8-0	194	2			
3. Homestead (3)	11-0	186	3			
4. Lafayette Jeff	10-0	144	4			
5. Westfield	7-0	126	5			
6. Indpls Cathedral	8-1	113	6			
7. S. Bend Adams	9-0	104	8			
8. Indianapolis Attucks	9-2	89	7			
9. Zionsville	6-3	37	T10			
10. Crown Point	4-0	23	NR			
(tie) Gary West	5-2	23	NR			
Others receiving votes: Fishers 13, Warren Central 13, Plainfield 8, Carroll (Allen) 7, Chesterton 6, Columbus North 6, Greenwood 6, Bloomington North 6, S. Bend Riley 6.						
CLASS 3A						
	W-L	Pts	Prv			
1. Heritage Hills (7)	5-0	192	1			
2. Hammond (4)	6-1	191	2			
3. Silver Creek	7-2	168	3			
4. Ev. Bosse	4-0	158	4			
5. Greensburg	5-1	105	5			
6. Mishawaka Marian	7-1	101	7			
7. Leo	7-0	99	9			
8. Sullivan	6-1	91	6			
9. S. Bend St. Joseph's	6-2	69	10			
10. Danville	3-1	51	8			
Others receiving votes: Beech Grove 30, Tri-West 27, Peru 16, Guerin Catholic 16, Greencastle 6.						
CLASS 2A						
	W-L	Pts	Prv			
1. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (11)	8-0	220	1			
2. Shenandoah	7-3	162	5			
3. S. Spencer	9-1	132	3			
4. Linton-Stockton	9-2	130	4			
5. Blackford	7-2	129	2			
6. Westview	6-1	129	6			
7. Indpls Covenant Christian	8-0	105	7			
8. Parke Heritage	9-2	79	8			
9. Central Noble	6-1	65	9			
10. Andean	4-2	48	10			
Others receiving votes: Southwestern (Jefferson) 30, S. Ripley 30, Eastern Hancock 18, Madison-Grant 16, Ev. Mater Dei 12, North-eastern 8, Churubusco 7.						
CLASS 1A						
	W-L	Pts	Prv			
1. Barr-Reeve (10)	8-2	218	1			
2. Kouts (1)	9-1	200	2			
3. Bloomfield	3-0	166	3			
4. Loogootee	8-2	155	5			
5. N. Daviess	8-1	122	4			
6. Morristown	6-2	98	6			
7. Edinburg	8-2	86	7			
8. Covington	2-2	74	8			
9. Jac-Cen-Del	9-2	50	NR			
10. Triton	6-1	38	NR			
Others receiving votes: Tindley 31, Indpls Lutheran 23, Lafayette Catholic 19, Washington Twp. 18, Covenant Christian (DeMotte) 14, Ev. Christian 8.						
COLLEGE BASKETBALL						
The AP Top 25 Women's Basketball Poll						
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 3, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking						
	Record	Pts	Prv			
1. Stanford (27)	9-0	745	1			
2. Louisville	7-0	695	2			
3. NC State (2)	10-0	680	3			
3. UConn (1)	6-0	680	4			
5. South Carolina	6-1	647	5			
6. Baylor	8-1	590	7			
7. Arizona	8-1	535	6			
8. Texas A&M	10-0	534	9			
9. UCLA	6-2	505	11			
10. Kentucky	9-1	497	13			
11. Oregon	8-1	453	8			
12. Maryland	6-1	392	14			
13. Arkansas	10-2	372	10			
14. Mississippi St.	6-2	365	12			
15. Michigan	7-0	349	16			
16. Ohio St.	4-0	256	17			
17. Texas	8-1	251	19			
18. South Florida	7-1	204	21			
19. Indiana	5-2	193	20			
20. DePaul	5-3	173	18			
21. Gonzaga	8-2	113	23			
22. Northwestern	4-2	108	15			
23. Michigan St.	8-0	106	25			
24. Syracuse	5-1	98	22			
25. Missouri St.	4-2	66	24			
Others receiving votes: North Carolina 32, South Dakota St. 27, Georgia 25, Iowa 18, Tennessee 10, Rice 9, Alabama 8, Arizona St. 7, Washington St 3, Oregon St 2, Iowa St. 2.						
The AP Top 25 Men's Basketball Poll						
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 3, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking						
	Record	Pts	Prv			
1. Gonzaga (63)	10-0	1599	1			
2. Baylor (1)	9-0	1537	2			
3. Villanova	8-1	1453	4			
4. Texas	8-1	1415	8			
5. Iowa	9-2	1298	10			
6. Kansas	8-2	1224	3			
7. Creighton	8-2	1140	11			
8. Wisconsin	9-2	1085	6			
9. Tennessee	7-1	1076	7			
10. Michigan	9-0	1039	16			
11. Houston	8-1	977	5			
12. Illinois	8-3	878	15			
13. Missouri	7-1	747	12			
14. West Virginia	8-3	706	9			
15. Rutgers	7-2	703	14			
16. Minnesota	10-2	559	21			
17. Oregon	8-1	545	21			
18. Texas Tech	8-3	445	13			
19. Clemson	8-1	411	-			
19. Virginia Tech	8-1	411	24			
21. Duke	3-2	280	20			
22. Virginia	5-2	258	23			
23. Saint Louis	7-1	133	-			
23. Michigan St.	7-3	133	17			
25. Florida St.	5-2	120	18			
Others receiving votes: Florida 110, Louisville 103, Ohio St. 96, Northwestern 86, Oklahoma St. 68, Arizona 25, Colorado 19, BYU 18, Drake 17, NC State 16, Oklahoma 15, Arkansas 14, Seton Hall 11, UCLA 6, Xavier 5, San Diego St. 4, UConn 4, LSU 3, Boise St. 3, Indiana 2, Alabama 2, Syracuse 1.						
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE						
Conference		All Games				
W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct	
Virginia Tech	2	0	1.000	8	1	.889
Louisville	2	0	1.000	7	1	.875
NC State	2	0	1.000	6	1	.857
Syracuse	1	0	1.000	6	1	.857
Virginia	1	0	1.000	5	2	.714
Duke	1	0	1.000	3	2	.600
Clemson	2	1	.667	8	1	.889
Georgia Tech	2	1	.667	6	3	.667
Florida St.	1	1	.500	5	2	.714
Pittsburgh	1	1	.500	5	2	.714
North Carolina	1	2	.333	6	4	.600
Wake Forest	0	1	.000	3	1	.750
Miami	0	3	.000	4	4	.500
Notre Dame	0	3	.000	3	6	.333
Boston College	0	3	.000	2	7	.222
Tuesday's Games						
NC State at Clemson						
North Carolina at Miami						
Wednesday's Games						
Pittsburgh at Syracuse, 4:30 p.m.						
Florida St. at Syracuse, ppd.						
Virginia Tech at Louisville, 6:30 p.m.						
Boston College at Duke, 8:30 p.m.						
Wake Forest at Virginia, 9 p.m.						
Georgia Tech at Notre Dame, ppd.						
BIG EAST CONFERENCE						
Conference		All Games				
W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct	
Villanova	3	0	1.000	8	1	.889
Seton Hall	5	1	.833	8	4	.667

Creighton	4	1	.800	8	2	.800
Providence	3	2	.600	7	4	.636
UConn	1	1	.500	4	1	.800
Marquette	2	3	.400	6	5	.545
Xavier	1	2	.333	8	2	.800
St. John's	1	3	.250	6	4	.600
Butler	1	3	.250	2	5	.286
Georgetown	1	4	.200	3	6	.333
DePaul	0	2	.000	1	2	.333
Tuesday's Games						
UConn at Marquette						
Villanova at DePaul, ppd.						
Wednesday's Games						
Georgetown at Butler, 7 p.m.						
St. John's at Xavier, 8 p.m.						
Seton Hall at Creighton, 9 p.m.						
BIG TEN CONFERENCE						
	Conference		All Games			
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Michigan	4	0	1.000	9	0	1.000
Illinois	4	1	.800	8	3	.727
Iowa	3	1	.750	9	2	.818
Wisconsin	3	1	.750	9	2	.818
Minnesota	3	2	.600	10	2	.833
Rutgers	3	2	.600	7	2	.778
Northwestern	3	2	.600	6	3	.667
Indiana	2	2	.500	7	4	.636
Ohio St.	2	3	.400	8	3	.727
Purdue	2	3	.400	7	5	.583
Michigan St.	1	3	.250	7	3	.700
Maryland	1	4	.200	6	5	.545
Penn St.	0	3	.000	3	4	.429
Nebraska	0	4	.000	4	7	.364
Monday's Games						
Indiana 63, Maryland 55						
Tuesday's Games						
Rutgers at Michigan St.						
Nebraska at Purdue, ppd.						
Wednesday's Games						
Penn St. at Ohio St., 6:30 p.m.						
Minnesota at Michigan, 8:30 p.m.						
Thursday's Games						
Iowa at Maryland, 7 p.m.						
Indiana at Wisconsin, 7 p.m.						
Illinois at Northwestern, 9 p.m.						
HORIZON LEAGUE						
	Conference		All Games			
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Cleveland St.	6	0	1.000	6	3	.667
Ill.-Chicago	2	0	1.000	5	2	.714
Wright St.	5	1	.833	7	2	.778
N. Kentucky	3	1	.750	5	4	.556
Milwaukee	2	1	.667	3	2	.600
Robert Morris	2	1	.667	3	3	.500
Oakland	3	3	.500	3	10	.231
Youngstown St.	2	4	.333	5	4	.556
Fort Wayne	1	5	.167	2	5	.286
Green Bay	1	5	.167	1	9	.100
IUPUI	0	2	.000	1	2	.333
Detroit	0	4	.000	1	7	.125
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
	Conference		All Games			
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Bowling Green	3	0	1.000	7	2	.778
Toledo	3	0	1.000	8	3	.727
Akron	2	0	1.000	4	1	.800
Ball St.	2	1	.667	4	4	.500
Cent. Michigan	1	1	.500	5	4	.556
Buffalo	1	1	.500	3	3	.500
Ohio	1	2	.333	5	4	.556
W. Michigan	1	2	.333	2	6	.250
Kent St.	0	1	.000	3	2	.600
Miami (Ohio)	0	1	.000	3	3	.500
E. Michigan	0	2	.000	2	3	.400
N. Illinois	0	3	.000	1	7	.125
Tuesday's Games						
Toledo at Kent St.						
Cent. Michigan at Bowling Green						
N. Illinois at Ohio						
Bowling Green at Miami (Ohio), ppd.						
W. Michigan at Ball St., ppd.						
E. Michigan at Buffalo, ppd.						
MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE						
	Conference		All Games			
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Drake	4	0	1.000	13	0	1.000
Loyola-Chicago	2	0	1.000	7	2	.778
Missouri St.	3	1	.750	6	1	.857
Evansville	3	1	.750	5	5	.500
S. Illinois	1	3	.250	7	3	.700
N. Iowa	1	3	.250	2	7	.222
Bradley	0	0	.000	6	3	.667
Illinois St.	0	2	.000	3	5	.375
Valparaiso	0	0	.000	3	5	.375
Indiana St.	0	4	.000	3	6	.333
Monday's Games						
Drake 86, S. Illinois 55						
Loyola of Chicago at Bradley, ppd.						
NBA						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Phila.	6	1	.857	—		
Boston	5	3	.625	1½		
New York	4	3	.571	2		
Brooklyn	3	4	.429	3		
Toronto	1	5	.167	4½		
Southeast Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Orlando	5	2	.714	—		
Atlanta	4	3	.571	1		
Miami	3	3	.500	1½		
Charlotte	2	5	.286	3		
Washington	2	5	.286	3		
Central Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Indiana	5	2	.714	—		
Milwaukee	4	3	.571	1		
Cleveland	4	3	.571	1		
Chicago	3	4	.429	2		
Detroit	1	6	.143	4		
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Southwest Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
New Orleans	4	3	.571	—		
Dallas	3	4	.429	1		
Houston	2	3	.400	1		
San Antonio	2	4	.333	1½		
Memphis	2	4	.333	1½		
Northwest Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Utah	4	2	.667	—		
Portland	3	3	.500	1		
Denver	2	4	.333	2		
Minnesota	2	4	.333	2		
Oklahoma City	2	4	.333	2		
Pacific Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
L.A. Clippers	5	2	.714	—		
Phoenix	5	2	.714	—		
L.A. Lakers	5	2	.714	—		
Golden State	4	3	.571	1		
Sacramento	3	4	.429	2		
Monday's Games						
Orlando 103, Cleveland 83						
Phila. 118, Charlotte 101						
Miami 118, Oklahoma City 90						
New York 113, Atlanta 108						
Boston 126, Toronto 114						
Milwaukee 125, Detroit 115						
Dallas 113, Houston 100						
Indiana 118, New Orleans 116, OT						
Golden State 137, Sacramento 106						
Tuesday's Games						
Utah at Brooklyn						
L.A. Lakers at Memphis						
Minnesota at Denver						
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers						
Chicago at Portland						
Wednesday's Games						
Cleveland at Orlando, 7 p.m.						
Houston at Indiana, 7 p.m.						
Washington at Phila., 7 p.m.						
Boston at Miami, 7:30 p.m.						
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.						
Utah at New York, 7:30 p.m.						
Detroit at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.						
Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 8 p.m.						
Toronto at Phoenix, 9 p.m.						
Chicago at Sacramento, 10 p.m.						
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10 p.m.						
Thursday's Games						
Phila. at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.						
Cleveland at Memphis, 8 p.m.						
Dallas at Denver, 10 p.m.						



# Wife grapples with family’s history of sexual dysfunction

**DEAR ABBY:** When my husband and I were first married, I had no idea why his mother and sisters were so hostile. When they started treating our children the same way, my husband finally addressed the issue. We moved out of town, and he finally told me that when he was in his teens and early 20s, he had had sex with all of them, which was why they didn’t like me.

After an estrangement of many years, he has now started talking to his mother and sisters again. His mother is now in her 70s. It breaks my heart that he is talking to people he had sex with, but he says it is OK because they are “family.” In my opinion, he should have nothing to do with them. Please tell me how I need to handle things. – “All In The Family”

**DEAR “ALL IN”:** You cannot control what another adult does. I sympathize with your feelings, and I agree your husband’s family situation was beyond unhealthy. However, from what you wrote, I get the impression that you would be equally upset if he were talking with ex-girlfriends. If your husband wants to talk to his relatives, he’s going to do it regardless of whether or not you find it threatening. My question to you would be, are you willing to tolerate it?

**DEAR ABBY:** My girlfriend suffers from depression. She says she loves me, but there are times she won’t contact me for days because of it. During this most recent bout of depression, she hasn’t talked to me for a month.

I finally got fed up. I told her the next time she talks to me it should either be a breakup call or to give me an apology. Was I right to say that? I don’t know what to do. – Unsure In The East

**DEAR UNSURE:** You say your girlfriend suffers from depression. Is she under the care of a doctor and receiving treatment for it? Is her family aware of the fact that when she cycles down she is incommunicado? If she’s so incapacitated that she can’t communicate, they should be notified so she can get the professional help she needs, including an adjustment in her medications if necessary.

I agree she owes you an apology, and I can’t fault you for telling her. But I would not recommend mentioning breaking up while she’s in a vulnerable mental state.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 55-year-old successful businesswoman who has fallen in love with a man who has nothing. I would have to support him completely in retirement, but he is so lovable, so kind and so much fun. He does bring me great joy and happiness. What should I do – stay with him and take on the burden of his finances or just keep moving? – Eye To The Future In Pennsylvania

**DEAR EYE:** You are a 55-year-old successful businesswoman. I assume you are asking me whether you should marry this man or not, even though you find him lovable, kind and fun to be with. People have valuable assets to offer besides money. However, before you make any trips to the altar, I suggest you have a chat with your attorney, just in case your assessment of him should change after the wedding.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

Dear Abby



## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Hindu teacher
- 6 Opponents
- 12 Asian temple
- 14 Fifth —
- 15 Loves dearly
- 16 Parking place
- 17 Perched
- 18 Cease
- 19 Strong soap
- 21 Eliminate
- 23 Bodybuilder’s pride
- 26 Jellyfish habitat
- 27 Web suffix
- 28 Eavesdrop
- 30 “Star Wars” rogue
- 31 Psychic power
- 32 Ring-shaped island
- 33 Got nosy
- 35 Std.
- 37 Step on it
- 38 Tractor pioneer
- 39 Spike or Bruce

### 40 Unmatched

- 41 Van —
- 42 Sidekick
- 43 Oaxaca article
- 44 Tune
- 46 IRS employee
- 48 Docket
- 51 Type of sale (hyph.)
- 55 Affectionately
- 56 Ultimatum (2 wds.)
- 57 Mixes the salad
- 58 Not censored

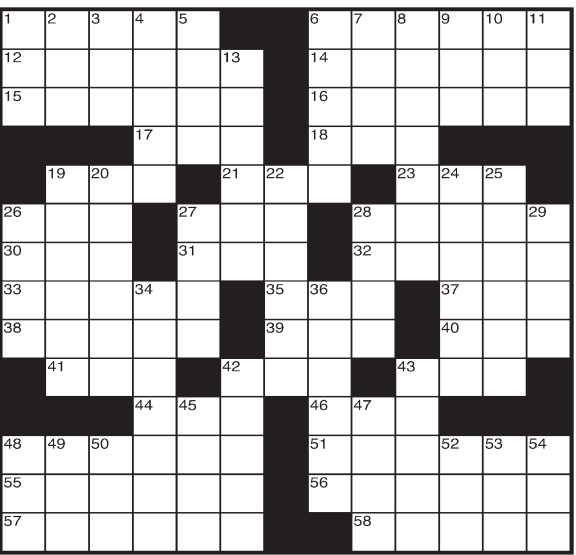
### DOWN

- 1 Health resort
- 2 Handful of cotton
- 3 In days gone by
- 4 Code inventor
- 5 Glimmering
- 6 Came unglued
- 7 Tennis ace — Lendl

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 8 Springlike
- 9 RN’s group
- 10 Clumsy person
- 11 Take a gander at
- 13 Lone Star nine
- 19 Chartered
- 20 New York baseball player
- 22 Reddish antelope
- 24 Weep noisily
- 25 Not liquids or gases
- 26 Trawler’s haul
- 27 Surrender territory
- 28 Guru
- 29 Answered a judge
- 34 Short trips
- 36 Zipper alternative
- 42 Implores
- 43 Weighed down
- 45 Slothful
- 47 Andes nation
- 48 Toward the stern
- 49 Sticky stuff
- 50 Space widths
- 52 “Water-falls” group
- 53 Tempe inst.
- 54 Under-stand



1-6 © 2021 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

		6	9	1	5			2	7
					3				9
		9		2	4				
5				7					
6	7	1		5		8	3	2	
				6				4	
			1	9		3			
7			5						
2	9		8	3	7	1			

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
2	8	3	5	4	1	9	6	7
5	4	6	7	9	8	3	1	2
7	9	1	3	6	2	8	5	4
4	2	9	1	5	6	7	8	3
6	7	5	2	8	3	1	4	9
3	1	8	4	7	9	5	2	6
1	6	4	8	3	7	2	9	5
9	3	2	6	1	5	4	7	8
8	5	7	9	2	4	6	3	1

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRYID



TOMOT





ZENEES



LIRPAL



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**Answer here:** “ - ”  
(Answers tomorrow)  
Saturday’s Jumbles: PRONE PHONY GENIUS JABBER  
Answer: When they spotted the alligator on the golf course, it caused — APPREHENSION

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

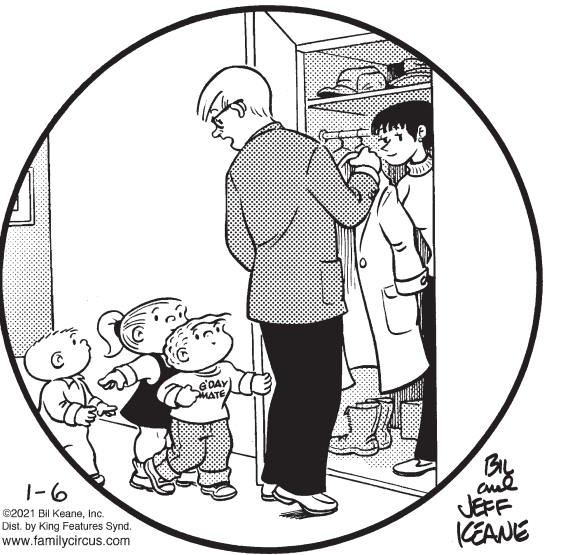
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

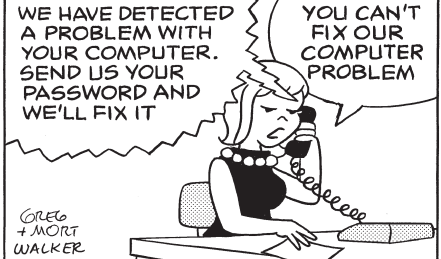
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



“I don’t think Mommy wants you playing hide-and-seek in the ...”

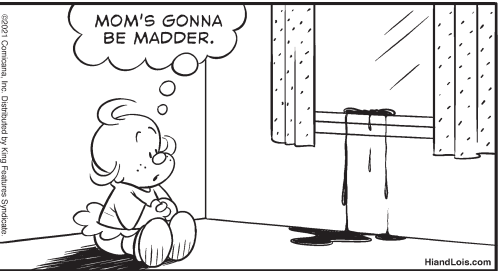
## BEETLE BAILEY



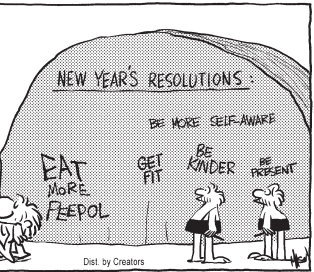
## BLONDIE



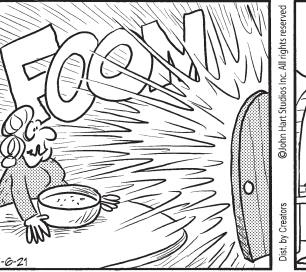
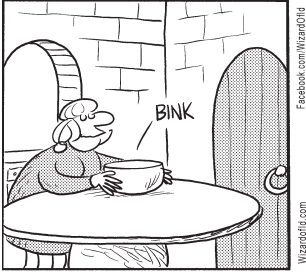
## HI & LOIS



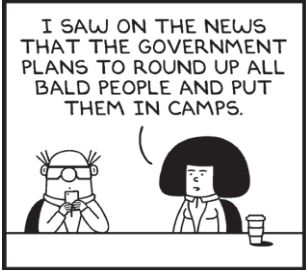
## BC



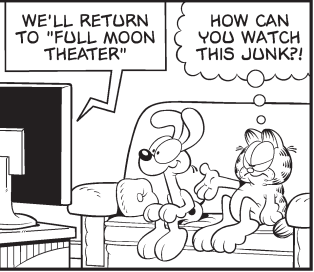
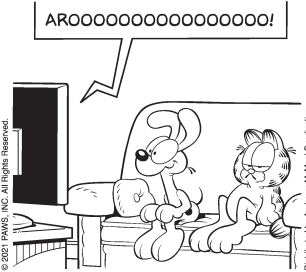
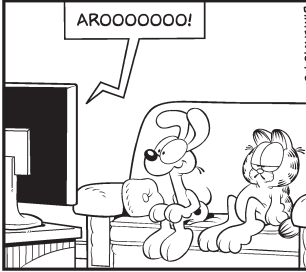
## WIZARD OF ID



## DILBERT



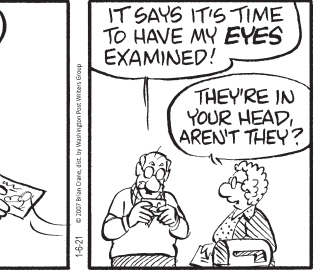
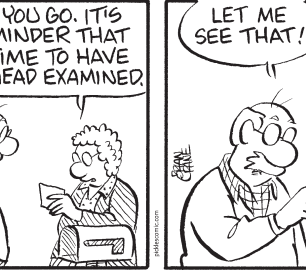
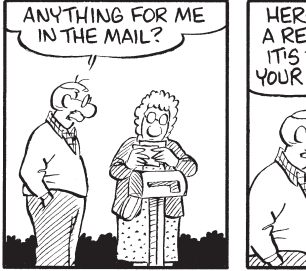
## GARFIELD



## FORT KNOX



## PICKLES



# Being a Christian does not exempt us from tough training

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

**Q:** I have just recently accepted God into my life and am a shut-in. My neighbor suggested I start listening to a church program on TV. The preacher promises that those who come to Christ will have happiness and prosperity. Another friend told me to expect difficulties which can help me grow in my faith. Which is it? — P. P.

**A:** New believers in Jesus Christ may receive false impressions of the normal Christian life. He or she may hear a preacher who wants to win hearers to Christ and therefore glamorizes the Christian experience by making it sound as carefree and positive as he can. Many times believers

begin their Christian walk on an emotional high. They see remarkable answers to prayer and experience the world in a rosy glow.

This is a reminder of how the American public felt during the first few days of the war in the Persian Gulf. Everything seemed to be going our way as our brave pilots crushed enemy installations with little opposition. The president warned against “euphoria” as a result of these apparent successes.

Being a Christian does not exempt us from tough training, which may mean suffering. If the training were easy, we would not be prepared for the tough days ahead. All people experience disasters, troubles, and illnesses. The difference for the Christian is that Jesus Himself will be with us every step of the way, and the challenges of life do help us grow in the things of the Lord. Being a Christian is a daily process whereby we grow to be more and more like Christ.

## CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“JYVEV’C U HKJ KO FPJVAEFJM DFJY  
SZCFBFUPC; MKZ EVUHHM CJFHH  
UCRFEV JK ... TV JYV TVCJ XVECCKP  
KO MKZECVHO MKZ BUP TV.”  
— CYVEMH BEKD

Previous Solution: “Life’s not about expecting, hoping and wishing, it’s about doing, being and becoming.” — Mike Dooley  
TODAY’S CLUE: W s i e n b e s



# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact  
your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
http://young.senate.gov/  
contact

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
http://braun.senate.gov/

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
h18@in.gov

To email any  
Indiana lawmaker,  
go to this website:  
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/  
legislative/contact/  
contact.pl

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



## DAILY SCRIPTURE

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

**1 Peter 4:16**

# Republicans can support democracy or Trump

As Congress prepares for what should be a routine confirmation of the results of the 2020 presidential election, its Republican members are divided between those who will do their constitutional duty and ratify Joe Biden and Kamala Harris' victory and those who will abet President Trump's unhinged and self-serving attack on the democratic process.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and other Republicans who have said they will challenge Biden electors at Wednesday's joint session of Congress may pontificate about the need to address "irregularities" in the election. But don't be fooled: Threats to contest Biden's election aren't rooted in legitimate qualms about an election whose integrity has been repeatedly reaffirmed by recounts, audits and courts.

Any senator or representative who lodges objections Wednesday will be supporting a shameful assault on the Constitution and the will of the people, as illustrated with startling clarity by Trump's thuggish effort over the weekend to pressure a Georgia election official to "find" enough

votes to overturn Biden's victory in the state. Fortunately, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger didn't indulge Trump's fantasies.

Other Republicans are standing up to the president as well.

After Cruz and 10 other Republican senators announced that they would challenge Biden electors in hopes of having a commission "audit" the election results, Sen. Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania responded: "A fundamental, defining feature of a democratic republic is the right of the people to elect their own leaders. The effort by Sens. [Josh] Hawley [R-Mo.], Cruz, and others to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election in swing states like Pennsylvania directly undermines this right."

Four Republican senators – Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Mitt Romney of Utah – joined a bipartisan statement declaring: "The voters have spoken, and Congress must now fulfill its responsibility to certify the election results."

Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas,

generally a supporter of the president, announced that he too "will not oppose the counting of certified electoral votes on Jan. 6" – though Cotton added the gratuitous suggestion that a commission be formed "to study the last election and propose reforms to protect the integrity of our elections."

Finally, former Vice President Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld were among all 10 living former secretaries of Defense – in Republican and Democratic administrations alike – who issued a statement declaring: "The time for questioning the results has passed; the time for the formal counting of the electoral college votes, as prescribed in the Constitution and statute, has arrived."

Republican members of Congress face a stark choice Wednesday: Stand with these patriots, or join forces with Trump and his entourage of cultists, crackpots and conspiracy theorists. Those who make the wrong choice will tarnish their reputations indelibly.

*This editorial was first published in the Los Angeles Times.*

# AD 2020: The long view

Time magazine, demonstrating the legacy media's continued decline into irrelevance, has deemed 2020 "the worst year ever."

No, not hardly, and that claim is easily dismissed with an expansion of Descartes' "I think, therefore I am." If you are reading this, you are not dead yet. Ergo, not the worst year ever.

**Leo Morris**



There are plenty of candidates for the worst year ever.

In 536, for example, volcanic eruptions blanketed much of the world in fog, plunging temperatures, breeding crop failures and widespread starvation – it was the beginning of an era so bleak it just had to be called the Dark Ages.

In 1349, the Black Death plague killed half the population of Europe and wrought changes so profound they affected the rest of human history.

In 1520, smallpox raced through the Americas, killing between 60 and 90 percent of the original inhabitants.

And of course, there was 1919. Still trying to cope with tens of millions of deaths from World War I and the Spanish flu pandemic, Americans had to endure riots, bombs mailed to government officials by anarchists, a peace treaty that would set the stage for World War II, and the prospect of a sober 1920 as Prohibition kicked in.

So, no matter how bad you think 2020 was, just imagine how much worse it would have been for you in one of those earlier years. In addition to which, you'd be, you know, dead now.

All we need to put this admittedly bad but not completely awful year behind us are a few words of inspiration looking to the future.

Unfortunately, there is no one in the public sphere today eloquent enough to give us such a vision.

Gov. Holcomb says there is "unprecedented opportunity" today for "those who keep their wits about them" to "keep calm and carry on." And our future is ahead of us.

President-elect Biden says that we "must make the promise of the country real for everybody – no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity, or their disability." And we're all in this together.

We must reach back to look forward.

To John Kennedy in 1962, when he said we chose to go to the moon not because it was easy but because it was hard, "because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too."

To Ronald Reagan, on the occasion of the Challenger explosion in 1986, who told us that the pain of losing those astronauts was part of part of the process of exploration and discovery and that the future "doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave. The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future, and we'll continue to follow them."

And to William Faulkner, whose 1950 Nobel Prize acceptance speech deserves the most extensive citation because it seemed to look ahead to all our aspirations like the moon landing and all our setbacks like the Challenger explosion and put it all into perspective:

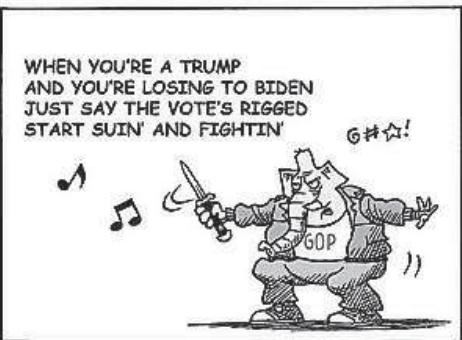
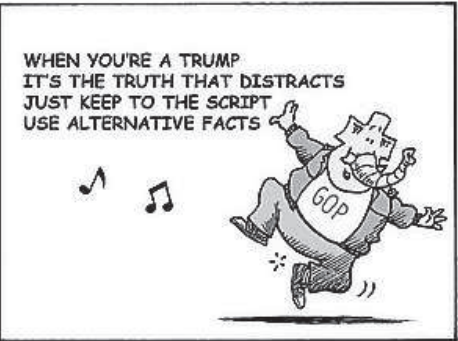
"I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is immortal because he will endure: that when the last ding-dong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening, that even then there will still be one more sound: that of his puny inexhaustible voice, still talking. I refuse to accept this.

"I believe that man will not merely endure; he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance."

We move through history, history moves through us, and through good years and bad, we will endure.

*Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com.*

## WEST WING STORY





ANNOUNCEMENTS	Special Notice	Special Notice	Special Notice	General Help	Unfurnished Apartments	Unfurnished Apartments
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The sheriff's office does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known street address. It is the buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and associated legal filings.



# UK hospitals stagger as new virus variant takes huge toll

By **DANICA KIRKA**  
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain is facing a long, bleak winter as cold, wet weather and a more contagious variant of the coronavirus put unprecedented strain on the nation’s hospitals and force record numbers of patients to wait 12 hours or more, sometimes on ambulance gurneys, before receiving treatment.

That picture made Prime Minister Boris Johnson order a third national lockdown that started Tuesday and requires everyone in England to stay at home for at least the next six weeks except for exercise, medical appointments, essential shopping and a few other limited exceptions.

“It’s not hyperbole to say that the (National Health Service) is going through probably the toughest time in living memory,” said Siva Anandaciva, chief analyst of the King’s Fund, a U.K. think tank that focuses on health and social care. “I was speaking to an emergency care physician from London last week, and she was saying that half of her shift was spent delivering care in ambulances because

they couldn’t get the patients into the emergency department.”

England’s previous nationwide lockdown ran from Nov. 5 to Dec. 5. In announcing the new stay-at-home order, Johnson said it won’t be reviewed for lifting until at least mid-February. By that time, the government hopes to have given one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to about 13 million people who are most at risk, potentially allowing some relaxation of the restrictions.

Under the latest lockdown, schools and outdoor sports facilities are closed along with bars, restaurants, hair salons, gyms, theaters and most shops.

“The weeks ahead will be the hardest yet, but I really do believe that we are entering the last phase of the struggle,” Johnson told the nation Monday night. “Because with every jab that goes into our arms, we are tilting the odds against COVID and in favor of the British people.”

Scotland’s leader, Nicola Sturgeon, also imposed a lockdown that began Tuesday. Northern Ireland and Wales had already imposed tough measures, though

rules vary. Each nation in the United Kingdom controls its own health policy under the country’s system of devolved government.

Johnson and Sturgeon said the restrictions were needed to protect the hard-pressed National Health Service as a new, more contagious variant of coronavirus sweeps across Britain. On Monday, hospitals in England were treating 26,626 COVID-19 patients, 40 percent more than during the first peak in mid-April.

Many U.K. hospitals have already been forced to cancel elective surgeries and the strain of responding to the pandemic may soon delay cancer surgery and limit intensive care services for patients without COVID-19.

In December, a record 2,930 people were forced to wait 12 hours or more before hospitals could find beds for them, the Health Service Journal reported Monday, citing leaked figures from the National Health Service. The previous high of 2,847 waits of at least 12 hours for a hospital bed was reported in January 2020.

Public health officials hope the new lockdown

will reduce the strains on the NHS while they roll out a national vaccination program that targets older people, health care workers and those particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Britain has approved two vaccine shots so far — one from Pfizer-BioNTech and the other from Oxford University and AstraZeneca.

As of Monday, the NHS had vaccinated 1.3 million people across the U.K. The government plans to have almost 1,000 vaccination centers operating across the country by the end of this week, Johnson said.

While rollout of the vaccination program is complicated, Anandaciva of the King’s Fund said the structure of the NHS will help it deliver the shots. In addition to a nationwide network of hospitals, doctors and nurses, it can rely on other allied health care professionals, such as pharmacists, to deliver the vaccine.

“That’s one area where you can really maximize the benefits of having a nationalized service because you can ... establish hubs, you can pool staff, and you’ve got a very strong brand to attract people,” he said. “I think the NHS is

doing quite a good job of setting up the logistics of how you will get the vaccine into the right places.”

In the meantime, grants are being given to help businesses further strained by the new rules. Grants of up to 9,000 pounds will be offered to businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

“The new strain of the virus presents us all with a huge challenge — and, whilst the vaccine is being rolled out, we have needed to tighten restrictions further,” Treasury chief Rishi Sunak said. “Throughout the pandemic we’ve taken swift action to protect lives and livelihoods and today we’re announcing a further cash injection to support businesses and jobs until the spring.”

Johnson announced the lockdown after the chief medical officers of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales raised the U.K.-wide COVID-19 threat assessment to the highest level. The health system is already under “immense pressure,” they said.

The new measures are similar to those imposed last spring, with people be-

ing told to work from home unless it’s impossible to do so, and to leave home only for exercise or essential trips such as grocery shopping. Schools across England were ordered to close their doors except for the children of critical workers and most vulnerable children, and shift to online instruction beginning Tuesday. University students won’t return to campus until at least mid-February.

All nonessential shops and personal care services like hairdressers will stay closed. Restaurants will be allowed to offer takeout services only.

New COVID-19 infections have soared in recent weeks as public health officials struggled to contain the new variant, which the government says is 50 percent to 70 percent more contagious. The number of confirmed new daily infections in the past seven days jumped 50 percent from the previous week, and coronavirus-related deaths rose 21 percent in the same period.

Britain reported 830 coronavirus-related deaths on Tuesday. The death toll from the pandemic is now 76,423, one of the world’s highest tallies.

# Sharpton: Firing officer who killed Andre Hill is not enough

By **FARNOUSH AMIRI and ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS**  
Report for America/  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — As light snow fell around the Ohio church Tuesday morning, Andre Hill’s family, friends and strangers angry about his death — clad in their Sunday best and Black Lives Matter masks — walked in to honor his life.

Inside the church in Columbus, a photo of Hill, 47, surrounded by the faces of Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor and the other Black people killed by authorities in recent years leaned against the stage next to his open casket. A white mark was taped on every other chair to facilitate social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

State Sen. Hearcel Craig greeted guests at the door. The Democratic lawmaker is a minister at southwest Columbus’ The Church of God, where Hill’s service was taking place.

“This is the second time in three weeks I have been

here to honor the life of a Black man taken by this city’s officials,” Craig said.

The first was for the funeral of 23-year-old Casey Goodson Jr., who was killed by a Franklin County Sheriff’s Office deputy on Dec. 4.

Scarcely three weeks later, Columbus Police Officer Adam Coy can be seen in bodycam footage fatally shooting Hill early Dec. 22 as Hill emerged from a garage holding a cellphone in his left hand with his right hand obscured. He was visiting a family friend at the time.

The Rev. Al Sharpton delivered Hill’s eulogy, saluting Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther and other city officials for ordering the firing of Coy less than a week after he shot Hill. But he said it’s not enough.

“We cannot have a precedent that if you kill us, you just lose your job and keep living your life as you were,” Sharpton told mourners.

Hill’s daughter, Karissa Hill, broke down in tears while speaking about her

father on stage.

“He was my gentle giant. He was my best friend,” she said. “We had special bond that nobody understood.”

A city council member introduced a resolution called Andre’s Law that would ensure Columbus police officers use their body cameras accurately by turning them on before shootings take place and to give victims aid within an appropriate timeframe.

“Being Black in America gives us cause to be cynical, and we must say enough is enough,” Shannon Hardin, the Democratic chair of the Columbus City Council, said at the beginning of Hill’s service.

Ginther, U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty, state Rep. Erica Crawley were among a number of lawmakers and leaders in attendance.

Beatty, a Columbus Democrat and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, noted that Hill died wearing a Black Lives Matter shirt, which she called a symbol of resistance against excessive police force.

“His death will not mere-

ly be a rallying cry at protests. His death will not be in vain. His memory will not be forgotten,” Beatty said. “Instead his life will be celebrated as a call for justice, his legacy upheld by all.”

In the moments after Hill was fatally shot, additional bodycam footage shows two other Columbus officers rolled Hill over and put handcuffs on him before leaving him alone again. None of them, according to the footage released Thursday, offered any first aid even though Hill was barely moving, groaning and bleeding while laying on the garage floor.

Coy, who had a long history of complaints from citizens, was fired Dec. 28 for failing to activate his body camera before the confrontation and for not providing medical aid to Hill.

Beyond an internal Columbus police department investigation, Ohio’s attorney general, the U.S. attorney for central Ohio and the FBI have begun their own probes into the shooting.

# Hank Aaron, civil rights leaders get vaccinated in Georgia

By **MICHAEL WARREN and RON HARRIS**  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron, former U.N. Ambassador and civil rights leader Andrew Young and former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan got vaccinated against COVID-19 in Georgia on Tuesday, hoping to send a message to Black Americans that the shots are safe.

Getting vaccinated “makes me feel wonderful,” Aaron told The Associated Press. “I don’t have any qualms about it at all, you know. I feel quite proud of myself for doing something like this. ... It’s just a small thing that can help zillions of people in this country.”

Rolling up their sleeves to take the first of two doses, these octogenarians, their spouses and several other civil rights leaders who received the shots in a brand-new health clinic at the Morehouse School of Medicine acknowledged the legacy of mistrust that many African Americans have toward medical research, stemming from the infa-

mous Tuskegee experiment in which U.S. health workers left syphilis untreated in Black men without their consent, making them suffer needlessly.

“I’ve been taking vaccines now for 88 years and I haven’t been sick,” Young said. “The truth of it is, Black folk have been living by shots, and just because they did something crazy and murderous and evil back in 1931, we’re still thinking about that. We’ve got to get over that.”

The disinformation is difficult to overcome: A December survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research showed 40 percent of Black people said they would not get the coronavirus vaccine. Such hesitancy is more entrenched than among white people, even though Black Americans have been hit harder by the virus.

Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, president and dean of the Morehouse School of Medicine, applauded Tuesday’s volunteers, calling them “trusted messengers” as the school launches a public vaccination campaign with the help of a \$40 million federal grant from

the HHS Office of Minority Health to fight COVID-19 in underserved communities.

Starting on Saturday, the just-opened clinic will administer its first allotment of 500 Moderna vaccines to people 75 and older who sign up through the school’s website. They’ll be able to get vaccinated by appointment, without waiting or even leaving their cars, she said. People 65 and older can get their shots days later, following state protocols.

“It is time for us to take charge of what is happening in our communities and lead by example,” Rice said. “The Morehouse School of Medicine was founded 47 years ago to do exactly this — to take care of our community.”

Others who got the shot on Tuesday included the mother of Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance-Bottoms. “You know that if I’m bringing my mother to get vaccinated, that it’s safe. It’s best for our community,” the mayor said.

Young, who also served in Congress and as mayor of Atlanta, said he’s taken many vaccines while trav-

eling to 141 nations during his career, often on missions to eradicate polio. He still remembers seeing its victims stuck in iron lungs in Warm Springs, Georgia — “It was a devastating thing to get polio,” he said — and last year, he was able to celebrate its eradication in Nigeria, administering drops to 100 mothers and their babies.

“I’m a product of vaccines. Why would I want to stop now?” Young said.

Young said he recruited Aaron and his wife, Billye Suber Aaron, to get their shots with him and Sullivan, who founded the medical school a half-century ago and later joined the Cabinet of President George H.W. Bush. The Aarons, for their part, have given more money to the medical school than the slugger made in his last five years of playing baseball, Young observed.

Young praised the new clinic, saying it will make medicine “more relevant and more safe and more available to poor folks of color.”

“I think that’s what we need all across the state of Georgia and the South,” he said.

# NW Indiana mayor fires worker after New Year’s gunshots

HAMMOND (AP) — A northwest Indiana mayor has fired a city worker after the man allegedly put others at risk by firing gunshots into the air to celebrate the New Year.

Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott said Monday in a social media posting that he fired a water department worker after a video surfaced on Facebook apparently showing the man firing two celebratory shots into the air on New Year’s Eve, while standing next to someone who fired several shots.

McDermott called those gunshots a “dangerous action” in a social media posting in which he asked where those who fire such gunshots “think the bullets are going to end up? In orbit?”

Celebratory gunfire long has been a concern in Hammond, where a 13-year-

old boy, Noah Inman, was killed as he played basketball on July 4, 2017, when he was struck by a bullet falling from the sky.

No one has been charged in Inman’s death, but detectives suspected the bullet that killed him was fired into the sky by someone in the area in celebration of the Fourth of July.

“Haven’t we, as a society, learned a thing from his tragic murder?” McDermott wrote in his posting.

The mayor said the water department employee he fired was charged and issued a Hammond ordinance violation.

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported that it was not naming the dismissed employee because it could not immediately confirm whether the charges McDermott mentioned have been formally filed.

# Fire causes extensive damage to Kokomo Tribune building

KOKOMO (AP) — A fire Tuesday morning caused extensive smoke and water damage to the Kokomo Tribune building, officials said.

The fire was reported shortly before 4 a.m. and firefighters remained on the scene for about six hours, the newspaper reported.

“I would say it is major, because they had to put a lot of water on it,” Kokomo Fire Department Inspector Glenda Myers

said of the damage.

Firefighters did not initially see the source of the flames and used an excavator to tear down an eastern wall, Myers said.

Once firefighters were able to enter the area of the building where the flames appeared to be coming from, they were able to quickly extinguish the blaze, she said.

The cause of the fire and its origin inside the building was under investigation.

# 2 rescued from car crash in northern Indiana

SOUTH BEND (AP) — Two people were rescued Tuesday morning after being trapped inside a crashed car in a northern Indiana ditch, authorities said.

Hunters discovered the crash around 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, the St. Joseph County Sheriff’s Department said in a news release.

The occupants likely were trapped for less than 24 hours, the release said. The property owner believes the vehicle likely crashed after dark Monday and missed a curve while driving down a dirt lane.

The occupants of the vehicle said they were not sure when they crashed or

how long they had been trapped, the release said.

The female driver suffered from several injuries, including a possible broken foot, it said. The male passenger suffered from multiple unknown injuries. Both were hospitalized.

The two were found conscious and alert, responders at the scene said.

Kathie Dhuivetter, who lives nearby, said a sand pit and pond are located near the spot where the car slid off the road.

“If they had went any further, they probably would have just drowned,” she told the South Bend Tribune.



# Pence torn between Trump, Constitution

By **ZEKE MILLER**  
and **JILL COLVIN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He has been President Donald Trump’s most loyal soldier, dutifully backing the unpredictable leader and largely avoiding his ire. Now Vice President Mike Pence finds himself in the most precarious position of his tenure as he prepares to preside over Wednesday’s congressional tally of Electoral College votes, the last front in Trump’s futile attempts to overturn President-elect Joe Biden’s victory in the November election.

Seated on the House of Representatives’ rostrum, Pence will bear witness to the formalization of Trump’s – and his own – election defeat, as tellers from the House and Senate record states’ electoral votes. At the end of the count, it will be his job to announce who has won the majority of votes for both president and vice president.

But Pence, whose proscribed role is largely pro forma, is under intense pressure from the president and legions of supporters who want the vice president to use the moment to overturn the will of the voters in a handful of critical battleground states.

“I hope Mike Pence comes through for us, I have to tell you,” Trump said at a rally Monday night in Georgia for candidates in two Senate runoff elections.

“Of course, if he doesn’t

come through, I won’t like him quite as much,” Trump added, drawing laughs. He said Pence was “going to have a lot to say about it. And you know one thing with him, you’re going to get straight shots. He’s going to call it straight.”

Trump continued to pile on Tuesday, tweeting that Pence “has the power to reject fraudulently chosen electors.” The Constitution does not grant the vice president any such power – it is up to the House and Senate to voice objections – and states’ electors were chosen in accordance with state law, not fraudulently.

Pence has nonetheless spent hours huddling with the president, staff and the Senate parliamentarian ahead of Wednesday’s proceedings. His office declined to discuss his plans, but people close to the vice president stressed his respect for institutions and said they expect him to act in accordance with the law and hew to the Constitution.

“I think he will approach this as a constitutionalist, basically, and say, ‘What’s my role in the Constitution as president of the Senate?’” said David McIntosh, president of the conservative Club for Growth and a Pence friend. “What he’ll do is allow anybody who is going to move to object to be heard, but then abide by what the majority of the Senate makes the outcome.”

In fulfilling one of the few formal responsibilities of



Kevin Dietsch / Pool / Abaca Press / TNS

**President Donald Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, speaks Nov. 24 at the White House in Washington, D.C. Pence will preside over today’s congressional tally of Electoral College votes.**

the vice presidency, Pence also risks compromising his own political future. Pence is eyeing his own run for the White House in 2024, and is banking on his years of loyalty to Trump – likely to be the GOP’s top kingmaker for years to come – to help him stand out in what is expected to be a crowded field.

That means he must avoid angering Trump along with large portions of the Republican base, who have bought into the president’s unsupported claims of widespread election fraud and have been falsely led to believe that Pence has the power to reverse the outcome by rejecting the votes from states like Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania that

swung from Trump in 2016 to Biden in 2020.

“Stop the steal!” voters in Georgia chanted to Pence at a rally for the Senate candidates at the Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, on Monday.

“I know we all – we all got our doubts about the last election. And I want to assure you, I share the concerns of millions of Americans about voting irregularities,” Pence told the crowd. “And I promise you, come this Wednesday, we’ll have our day in Congress. We’ll hear the objections. We’ll hear the evidence.”

On Wednesday beginning at 1 p.m., Pence is to preside over a joint session of Congress. His role is to open the certificates of the electoral

votes from each state and present them to the appointed “tellers” from the House and Senate in alphabetical order. At the end of the count, it falls to Pence to announce who won.

Allies stress his role is largely ministerial, and that the electoral count could only be overturned by the lawmakers – a virtual impossibility given that Democrats control the House. But Pence on Sunday held a two-hour meeting that included the Senate parliamentarian to review his role and responsibilities

And on Monday, Pence was in the Oval Office with Trump and senior aides as the president continued to seek pathways to overturn the election results.

## COVID-19

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ample vaccine for all eligible healthcare workers registering for appointments at our vaccination clinic at the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation,” said Floor. “We receive a weekly vaccine allocation from the (ISDH) and this provides ample supply for the week’s vaccination appointments.”

As part of the state’s vaccination plan, Marion General Hospital (MGH) has been designated as a Phase 1-A vaccine distribution site and will be responsible for handling the vaccination of health care workers in Grant and Wabash counties.

On Thursday, Dec. 14, Lutheran Health community relations and strategic events director Joy Lohse said they would begin vaccinations the following morning at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne and Kosciusko Community Hospital in Warsaw.

On Tuesday, Dec. 29, Lohse said they had received their second shipment of the Pfizer vaccine and the first shipment of the Moderna vaccine.

Floor said they have an “ample supply” of the Pfizer vaccine on hand at Parkview Health.

“(This) is allocated to Parkview Health by the ISDH because we have the ultracold storage capacity and the pharmacy personnel to manage the vaccine supply.

For more information, visit [www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine).

### School figures

The ISDH’s school dashboard was updated Monday, Jan. 5 with data as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2. The dashboard is updated weekly at noon Mondays.

Statewide, 175 schools reported no cases, 1,886 reported one or more case and 307 have not reported.

In Wabash County, only White’s Jr./Sr. High School has reported to the ISDH that they have no cases.

During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included:

- Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, fewer than five new teacher positive cases, 36 total student positive cases, eight total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

- Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported fewer than five each new student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

- Manchester Intermediate School (MIS) reported six total student positive cases.

- Metro North Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

- Heartland Career Center reported fewer than five total staff positive cases.

- Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

- Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported 36 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

- O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported fewer than five total student positive cases, eight total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

- Wabash Middle School reported 10 total student positive cases.

- Wabash High School reported 10 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

- St. Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than five total teacher positive cases.

- Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (SHS) reported 14 total student positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

- Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

On the Manchester Community Schools’ (MCS) own dashboard the information is updated once contact tracing is complete and all close contacts have been notified. MCS defines close contact is when an individual is within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19.

“The Wabash County Health Department determined close contacts in conjunction with school personnel and advised us who to quarantine,” stated MCS.

The individually reported MCS cases include:

- Sept. 28: One case each at MES and MHS, with five people quarantined.

- Oct. 10: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

- Oct. 14: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

- Oct. 15: One case at MES, with five people quarantined. And one case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

- Oct. 16: One case at

MHS, with 34 people quarantined.

- Oct. 20: One case at MHS, with no additional people quarantined.

- Oct. 21: One case at MIS, with one person quarantined.

- Oct. 28: One case at MHS, with no additional people quarantined.

- Nov. 2: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

- Nov. 3: Two cases at MHS, with two people quarantined.

- Nov. 4: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

- Nov. 4: One case at MIS with one person quarantined.

- Nov. 5: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

- Nov. 6: One case at MES, and one case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

- Nov. 8: One case at MCS Transportation, with one person quarantined.

- Nov. 9: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

- Nov. 10: Three cases at MHS, with three people quarantined; and one case at MES, with one person quarantined.

- Nov. 13: One case at MHS, with three people quarantined.

- Nov. 14: One case at MHS, with three people quarantined.

- Nov. 16: Two cases at MHS, with seven people quarantined; one case at MCS Transportation including all schools in the district, with 25 people quarantined; and one case at MHS, with five people quarantined.

- Nov. 17: One case at MES, with 22 people quarantined; and one case at MCS Transportation, with four people quarantined.

- Nov. 19: One case at MHS, with six people quarantined; and one case at MCS Transportation, with one person quarantined.

- Nov. 20: Two cases at MHS, with 15 people quarantined.

- Nov. 22: One case at MES, with 11 people quarantined.

- Nov. 23: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

- Nov. 24: Four cases at MHS, with 24 people quarantined.

- Nov. 25: One case at MHS, with four people quarantined.

- Nov. 29: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

- Nov. 30: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

- Dec. 1: One case at MIS, with three people quarantined; and one case at MHS, with three people quarantined.

- Dec. 3: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

- Dec. 4: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

- Dec. 8: Three cases at

MHS, with five people quarantined.

- Dec. 10: Two cases at MHS, with 15 people quarantined.

- Dec. 14: One case at MIS, with 17 people quarantined.

- Dec. 16: One case at MES, with 16 people quarantined.

- Dec. 17: One case at MHS, with 21 people quarantined.

- Dec. 19: One case at MHS, with four people quarantined.

- Dec. 20: One case at MHS, with three people quarantined.

- Dec. 23: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined; and one case at MIS, with three people quarantined.

- Dec. 26: One case at MIS, with one person quarantined.

- Dec. 28: Two cases at MHS, with four people quarantined.

- Dec. 31: One case at MHS, with one person quarantined.

- Jan. 2: One case at MHS, with two people quarantined.

- Jan. 3: One case at the MCS Administrative Office, one person quarantined.

- Jan. 4: One case at the MCS Administrative Office, one person quarantined.

### Testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital “on an on-going basis.” Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

### Local figures

On Friday, the ISDH reported 23 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,630, with 12,106 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 5.5 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 21.7 percent.

On Saturday, the ISDH reported seven new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,637, with 12,142 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 6.2 percent. The local seven-day

positivity rating for unique individuals was 23.9 percent.

On Sunday, the ISDH reported four new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,641, with 12,159 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 6.3 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 24.1 percent.

On Monday, the ISDH reported 24 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,665, with 12,191 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 6.1 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 23.7 percent.

On Tuesday, the ISDH reported eight new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,673, with 12,217 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 6.5 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 23.7 percent.

### Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH announced that 3,477 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 533,083 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard.

A total of 8,292 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 142 from the previous day. Another 371 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by the state and occurred over multiple days.

To date, 2,681,739 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 2,675,056 on Monday. A total of 5,845,344 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the ISDH since Feb. 26.

Besides the Wabash site, the ISDH will offer free testing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday at the following locations:

- Schinkle Station, 111 W. State St., Huntington.

- Lawrence County Fairgrounds, 11265 US 50, Bedford.

- Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 Salisbury Road, Richmond.

To find other testing sites around the state, visit [www.coronavirus.in.gov](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov) and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

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## OBJECT

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election,” said Walorski late Monday, in response to a Plain Dealer request. “That is why I strongly support the creation of an Electoral Commission to conduct an emergency audit of presidential election returns before Inauguration Day. This thorough and transparent examination would help restore confidence in our electoral system and provide individual states a remedy if fraud or misconduct are confirmed to have affected the results. However, if Congress cannot reach a bipartisan agreement to take this commonsense step, I plan to vote to formally object to certain electors from contested states. Regardless of the outcome of this or any election, members of both parties have a responsibility to work together to ensure our elections are free, fair, and secure. Restoring the American people’s trust in our democratic institutions must be among our top priorities in the 117th Congress.”

Vice President Mike Pence, who is under pressure to tip the results for Trump, will be closely watched as he presides in a ceremonial role over Wednesday’s joint session.

The congressional effort to keep Trump in office is being led by Sens. Josh Hawley of Missouri and Ted Cruz of Texas, along with rank-and-file House members, some on the party’s fringe.

Cruz’s coalition of 11 Republican senators vows to reject the Electoral College tallies unless Congress launches a commission to immediately conduct an audit of the election results. Congress is unlikely to agree to that.

The group, which presented no new evidence of election problems, includes Braun and Sens. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, James Lankford of Oklahoma, Steve Daines of Montana, John Kennedy of Louisiana, Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming, Roger Marshall of Kansas, Bill Hagerty of Tennessee and Tommy Tuberville of Alabama.

Braun did not respond as of press time to a Plain Dealer request for further comment apart from a joint statement released Saturday.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has tried to prevent his party from engaging in this battle, which could help define the GOP in the post-Trump era. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, a Trump ally, has declined to say much publicly on it.

Both Hawley and Cruz are potential 2024 presidential contenders, vying for Trump’s base of supporters.

With Biden set to be inaugurated Jan. 20, Trump is intensifying efforts to prevent the traditional transfer of power. On a call disclosed Sunday, he can be heard pressuring Georgia officials to “find” him more votes from the Nov. 3 election he lost in that state.

This is not the first time Walorski and other local Republican leaders have publicly and without evidence questioned the results of the presidential election.

In December, then Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill joined a coalition of 17 state attorneys general in an amicus brief led by Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt supporting a Texas effort to persuade the Supreme Court to review alleged election irregularities in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Dozens of lawsuits filed in key battleground states have been dismissed or rejected due to a lack of evidence to support various claims made about irregularities and the election results.

The lawsuit filed in Texas repeated unsubstantiated accusations about the voting in four states that went Biden. The case demanded that the high court invalidate the states’ 62 total Electoral College votes.

Before that case was thrown out by the Supreme Court, Walorski joined over 100 of her Republican colleagues in the House of Representatives an amicus brief in support of the lawsuit.

*The Associated Press also contributed to this story. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com).*